

Approved

Conservation Commission Meeting Public Minutes June 14, 2023

Members in attendance: Mark Young (Chairman), Bob Stephens, Lise McNaughton, Andy Laroche, Brian Silva, Matt Lipinski, Andy Artimovich, Doug Cowie (Alternate), Becky Dunham (Alternate)

Chairman Young called the meeting to order at 6:32pm.

Motion by Laroche, second by McNaughton to approve public meeting minutes of 5/10/23. Unanimously approved.

Swasey Property

Rob Wofchuck introduced Dexter, Lisa, and Charlton Swasey who collectively addressed the Commission to express their interest in conserving two adjacent tracts of land, one approximately 70 acres and the other approximately 10 acres, which the Swaseys own. The land has been in their family for decades and they are eager to conserve it, having resisted developer interest over the past many years. The land has been periodically logged and there are logging roads and trails on the property. The Swaseys wish to retain ownership of the property and execute a conservation easement with certain restrictions yet to be determined. Discussion ensued regarding process steps and conservation criteria. Commission members expressed their interest in considering this land for conservation, which the Swaseys would like to have completed within a year.

Eversource (agenda item 4h)

Elizabeth Olliver and Kurt Nelson from Eversource briefed the Commission on its plan to replace certain transmission poles in town. The detailed plan had been circulated to the Commissioners prior to today's meeting. The work would be completed in the August through December 2023 timeframe. The Eversource plan was going before the Planning Board tomorrow and Eversource requested Conservation Commission support for the plan. Following discussion, Artimovich moved that the Commission advise the Planning Board it had no objections to the Eversource plan. Laroche seconded the motion which was approved, with Stephens abstaining.

Other Business

Chairman Young reported on these agenda items as follows:

4a – A recent hunting inquiry was referred to the Sportsmen of Brentwood.

4b – A tree was reported as having fallen into the Exeter River. No action required. It was noted that before cutting a tree within a quarter mile of a river, there may exist a requirement to obtain consent of the local river advisory entity.

4c – Chairman Young talked with adjacent towns on the existing requirement to periodically confirm Town Line Markers. Epping advised it would deal with the issue in the fall. Kingston sent us their findings from 2007 reporting that not all markers could be found. Chairman Young asked for volunteers among the Commissioners to work with each town. Lipinski volunteered to take Kingston and Artimovich agreed to take Fremont.

4d – The site plan application for 102 SH-125 has been resubmitted. No action needed.

4e – The town capitol projects submission had been made. No action needed.

4f – The NHDE approval letter for 41A Mill Road in River Run has been received. FYI only. McNaughton initiated discussion with Planning Board member Bruce Stevens, who was in attendance, about environmental considerations for permitting. Stevens explained the Planning Board process and considerations.

4g – The Conservation Commission has been requested to sign-off on a NHDES approval letter regarding the county complex. No objections to sign-off were raised.

4h – addressed above

4i – A driveway request has been submitted for a property along Lake Road. FYI only.

4j – Chairman Young reported he has been requested by the Selectboard to attend its meeting next week and brief them on Conservation Commission activities relating to the conservation bond approved at the March 2022 Town Meeting.

4k – The Planning Board is reviewing a property use change application regarding 335 SH-125. FYI only.

Bills and Reimbursement

Chairman Young reported that payment of our NHACC dues is late. Lipinski moved that the bill be approved for payment; Laroche seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

Chairman Young will forward the bill to the Town Administrator for payment.

Public Q&A

Planning Board member Bruce Stevens expressed disagreement with the Town Road Agent's interpretation of the NH Gates and Bars statute on Class VI roads. Artimovich clarified what the Road Agent said, and Commissioner Stephens related the recent history of the Conservation Commission's discussions on signage for those roads, as well as the Commission's decision to close the issue.

Motion by Artimovich, second by Laroche to go into nonpublic session for purposes of discussing updates on properties under consideration. Upon individual roll call vote, all members in attendance approved.

Upon return to public session, Lipinski moved to adjourn the meeting; Silva seconded. The motion was unanimously approved and the meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:45pm.